

PTO/SB/21 (05-03)

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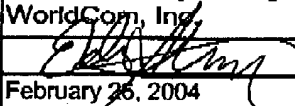
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/778,021	
	Filing Date	February 17, 2004	
	First Named Inventor	Watkins et al.	
	Art Unit	Unassigned	
	Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	RIC99071C1

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group
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<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

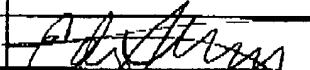
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Eden U.I. Stright, Reg. No. 51,205
Signature	
Date	February 26, 2004

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Watkins et al.

Confirmation No.: Unassigned

Serial No.: 10/778,021

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: February 17, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Title: System and Method for Staggering Time Points for
Deployment of Rings in a Fiber Optic Network Simulation PlanRECEIVED
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly and independently considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the application and prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits, therefore, no fee is due.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), no copy of any patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information listed in this information disclosure statement is required to be provided, as the information was previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office in earlier Application No. 09/469,527, filed December 22, 1999. Further, according to the Official Gazette, Vol. 1273, Number 1, August 5, 2003, the Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that the documents cited in this Information Disclosure Statement be independently considered by the Examiner.

FROM WorldCom Technology Law Washington DC

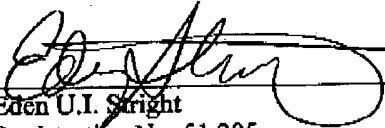
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Docket No.: RIC99071C1

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2004


Eden U.I. Stright
Registration No. 51,205

WorldCom, Inc.
1133 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202 736-6008
Fax: 202-736-6382

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. RIC99071C1		SERIAL NO. 10/778,021	
LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S): Watkins et al.			
				FILING DATE 02/17/2004		GROUP Unassigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
* EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
		5,204,955	04/1993	Kagei et al.			
		5,295,244	03/1994	Dev et al.			
		5,515,367	05/1996	Cox et al.			
		5,530,575	06/1996	Acapora et al.			
		5,583,792	12/1996	Li et al.			
		5,657,142	08/1997	Fahim			
		5,729,692	03/1998	Qui et al.			
		5,787,252	07/1998	Schettler et al.			
		5,809,282	09/1998	Cooper et al.			
		5,907,696	05/1999	Stilwell et al.			
		6,085,238	07/2000	Yuasa et al.			
		6,205,413	03/2001	Bisdikian et al.			
		6,311,144	10/2001	Abu El Ata			
		6,442,141	08/2002	Borella et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		Menasce, "Capacity Planning and Performance Modeling: From Mainframes to Client Servers", Prentice hall, ISBN: 0-13-035494-5, 1994					
		Gannett, "Fast, Efficient Equipment Placement Heuristics for Broadband Switched or Internet Router Networks", White Paper Telcordia Technologies, 29 July 1999					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							